

*From the Office of Secretary of the State*  
*Susan Bysiewicz*

June 6, 2003

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Larry Perosino/Beth Perfetto

**860/509-6259 860/509-6228**

**MIDDLETOWN STUDENT  
EARNS STATE CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

Middletown High School student Jesse Nasta was selected by Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz as an Excellence in Citizenship Award winner. Nasta received his award from Secretary Bysiewicz at a school awards ceremony this morning.

Through the Secretary of the State's Citizenship Award program, an eighth grade student and a twelfth grade student from participating schools are recognized for active involvement in civic and community activities.

"The future of our democracy lies in the hands of the youth of today," Bysiewicz said. "Civic participation is a critical element in the vibrancy of a community. Students, such as Jesse, who devote time and energy to these pursuits deserve recognition for their efforts."

Specific criteria used in selecting a Citizenship Award recipient include: volunteer service to the community; involvement in civic organizations; academic record; participation in student government; school attendance; leadership.

Bysiewicz noted that Jesse has not only achieved academic excellence, but has dedicated himself to improving the quality of life at Middletown High School through the student council and school newspaper. As a leader of the school's community service group ASTRA, he has also demonstrated a commitment to his fellow Middletown residents and neighbors.

"It is good to know that a new generation of energetic and enthusiastic young people attend our middle and senior high schools," Bysiewicz said. "I join teachers, family and friends in congratulating Jesse on this significant achievement."